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Tenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
27 March - 3 April 1989

Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twenty-fourth session of the Commission/ fifteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
6 - 10 April 1989

Item 6 of the provisional agenda**

FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON OTHER RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE TWENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMISSION/FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

LE/AAIR/31.

* E/ECA/TPCW.10/1.
** E/ECA/CM.15/1.

1. The twenty-third session of the Commission/fourteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic development and planning was held at the Palais des Congrès, Niamey, the Niger, from 14 to 17 April 1988. The meeting adopted 34 resolutions covering most sectors of socio-economic development in the African region. Among these resolutions five were addressed to the United Nations General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The actions taken on those resolutions are reported in document E/ECA/CM.15/30 entitled "Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1988 and by the United Nations General Assembly at its forty-third session in the economic and social sectors that are of interest to Africa". The other resolutions were addressed to member States, the ECA Executive Secretary, organs of the United Nations and other organizations. The purpose of the present document is therefore to provide the meeting with an account of action taken by the ECA secretariat towards the implementation of some of the other resolutions.

Res. 631 (XXIII). The Khartoum Declaration: Towards a human-focused approach to socio-economic recovery and development in Africa

2. Since the adoption of resolution 631 (XXIII), the following actions have been taken to implement the resolution and the Khartoum Declaration:

(a) The Khartoum Declaration has been made an official document of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the United Nations General Assembly on the review and appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD), and account was taken of the Declaration in the deliberations of the Committee;

(b) The Khartoum Declaration and resolution 631 (XXIII) were considered by the 1988 second regular session of ECOSOC, which adopted resolution 1988/66 thereon. The resolution, inter alia, welcomed the commitments of ECA member States to implement the recommendations of the Khartoum Declaration by making the human dimension an essential focus of their recovery and long-term development programme; and also urged international financial institutions, bilateral and multilateral donors, organizations of the United Nations system and non governmental organizations to contribute actively to the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Khartoum Declaration, with a view to ensuring that concern for the human dimension is adequately taken into account in their programmes of assistance to African countries;

(c) The Khartoum Declaration has been widely disseminated by the ECA Executive Secretary to all concerned. A special publication on the Khartoum Declaration has also been prepared and distributed by ECA. A book, containing an edited version of the papers of the Conference, is currently under preparation;

(d) At its eighth meeting, held at Geneva on 27 and 28 November 1988, the United Nations Inter-agency Task Force on the implementation of the UN-PAAERD at the regional level considered a plan of action for the implementation of the recommendations of the Khartoum Declaration, which will go into operation in 1989. Within the framework of this plan of action, a United Nations Inter-agency Task Force on Human Resources Development and Utilization in Africa has

been set up to ensure effective United Nations system-wide co-operation and co-ordination of activities in this important field;

(e) The thirty-fifth session of the Governing Council of UNDP considered the Khartoum Declaration and adopted a resolution in which it, inter alia, called on UNDP to support those aspects of the Declaration that are within its mandate;

(f) ECA has already taken steps to implement recommendations of the Declaration and has also urged United Nations organizations and agencies to do the same.

Res. 634 (XXIII). Co-operation between ECA and the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States and European Programmes (RBASEP)

3. The resolution was transmitted to UNDP and on its basis the Regional Bureau for Arab States and European Programmes reviewed five ECA proposals submitted to it. One of the proposals (PADIS - North Africa) has been approved and negotiations are still going on regarding the other four, i.e., Preferential Trade Area (PTA), Statistical Development Programme for Africa (SDPA), African Regional Standardization Organization (ARSO) and women's activities in North Africa.

Res. 635 (XXIII). Drought and desertification

4. Resolution 635 (XXIII) on drought and desertification requested the Executive Secretary of ECA to explore the feasibility of setting in motion a co-operation process between all African countries as envisaged in the Regional Plan of Action to Combat the Impact of Drought in Africa; to support the already established subregional organizations to combat more effectively and more efficiently the problems of drought and desertification; and to report to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers on the implementation of the resolution.

5. Regarding the feasibility of setting in motion a co-operation process between all African countries as envisaged in the Regional Plan of Action, the establishment of the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) will make this co-operation feasible. ACMAD will collect meteorological data, process and analyse the data received, make systematic and periodically regular information available to users for application to agricultural production, water resources management and other human activities that depend on the weather and climate. It will carry out:

(a) Monitoring of the weather over the continent and provision of forecasts;

(b) Classification of climate and definition of major weather systems over the tropical, semi-arid and arid lands of Africa;

(c) Development of methods for the application of meteorological information for the improvement of agricultural production and weather-related human activities as well as the development of new and renewable energy resources that depend on the weather and climate;

(d) Training of African scientists and technicians through workshops, seminars and refresher courses in the techniques of handling the areas mentioned in (a) to (c) above;

(e) Undertaking of applied research in meteorology for the better understanding of the atmospheric and climatic processes that cause weather and climate-related hazards.

6. ACMAD will complement and support programme activities of existing subregional and regional intergovernmental organizations such as AGRHYMET in the Sahel, Hydroniger in the Niger and those being carried out by the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Desertification (IGADD) in Eastern Africa, and the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) in Southern Africa, all of which will promote the national, subregional and regional applicability of ACMAD products.

7. In addition to ACMAD, regional advisory services on combating drought and desertification are being carried out to member States and existing intergovernmental organizations.

Res. 636 (XXIII). Preferential Trade Area for North Africa

8. The resolutions of the Council of Plenipotentiaries of the North African MULPOC on the establishment of a Preferential Trade Area (adopted since 1985) led to the commitment by member States to establish a PTA. These resolutions were reiterated in resolution 592 (XXII) of the ECA Conference of Ministers on the agreement of governments in the subregion to create the PTA and on the need to define the measures to be taken towards this end. The initial round of negotiations, held in November 1987, resulted from this commitment. It defined the terms of reference of the negotiating team, which decided to carry out general and sectoral studies for the preparation of the draft treaty and protocols to establish the PTA.

9. Resolution 636 (XXIII) of the ECA Conference of Ministers in 1988 endorsed the programme of negotiations proposed by the intergovernmental negotiating team and called upon member States to provide all necessary data and information to assist ECA in the preparation of the studies called for. It also reiterated its request to UNDP to provide the financial support necessary for the establishment of the PTA and its secretariat. The implementation of this resolution resulted in the secretariat taking two courses of action - one in relation to member States and the other to UNDP.

10. The measures taken with member States resulted in the designation by six countries in the subregion of national experts to collaborate in the studies and in the preparation of the draft treaty and protocols. Each country put forward one expert (except for Morocco which designated two), whose services will be made freely available to the ECA/Tangier MULPOC for the purposes of study preparation.

11. The initiative taken towards the funding sources had several aspects. On the one hand, a project specification was drawn up and submitted to UNDP for funding. In the continued absence of any response from UNDP, ECA has taken three measures. The first was directed towards member States, to encourage them to lend support to this project description, either by direct intervention with UNDP, by letter, or through the intermediary of the Permanent Missions in New York, so as to secure UNDP's approval for the project, without forgetting the direct links in the form of the Executive Secretary's contact with the Deputy Administrator of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States and European Programmes (RBASEP).

12. The second approach was directed towards alternative sources of finance, such as the Islamic Development Bank which has accepted in principle to consider the project and to examine the possibility of financing it, and the Saudi Development Fund.

13. The third measure involved mobilizing ECA's own resources and of using the balance of the Sudan's and Tunisia's contributions to UNFPA. A project document (later revised to include all the unspent balance) was drawn up and submitted to the Project Analysis and Appraisal Committee (PAAC). Although the total unspent balance was much lower than the actual needs for carrying out the studies and drawing up the draft treaty and protocols, the proposal in question retains only the essential operations. By this means, the delay which has arisen in comparison with the original time-table established by the negotiating team, envisaging the approval of the draft treaty and protocols and the signing of the agreement in 1990 should hopefully be reduced.

Res. 637 (XXIII). Emigration from Mahgreb countries of the North African MULPOC

14. Resolution 637 (XXIII) of the ECA Conference of Ministers reiterated resolution 4 of the Council of Plenipotentiaries of the North African MULPOC in 1983. Its implementation led the MULPOC and ECA to write to the regional and international organizations engaged in similar programmes, in order to co-ordinate their activities on emigration with those of the ECA/Tangier MULPOC. In addition, this correspondence requested organizations (ESC, OECD, ILO etc.) to make available bibliography on different aspects of emigration, in particular matters concerning the second generation, the readaptation and reintegration of emigrants into the labour market and the impact on the employment market.

15. A project proposal has been prepared by the Population Division of ECA. Three phases are envisaged in the implementation of this project. The first involves study preparation, the second, the holding of a seminar and the third, advisory services to governments.

16. Because of the probable difficulties in financing the project and in conformity with the instructions of the Executive Secretary to fund some activities from the advisory fund, it was decided to submit the terms of reference of the study to be carried out by a consultant. A request will be submitted to the Division of Administration to release the necessary funds for this consultation.

17. The study should be completed during the first part of 1989. The seminar will be held as soon as the finalized study has been distributed to member States. The seminar will determine the type of advisory services to governments - the third phase of the study.

Res. 638 (XXIII). Development of industry in North Africa

18. The resolution concerns UNIDO assistance on carrying out the series of activities and programmes in the industrial sector, the implementation of the sectoral study on industry and the drawing up of the protocol, within the framework of the treaty setting up the North African PTA.

19. The subregional follow-up meeting on intra-African industrial co-operation, within the framework of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa, from 30 May to 3 June 1988 provided the opportunity for the different participating organizations to reiterate their desire to strengthen mutual co-operation, in order to promote subregional industrial integration in North Africa. If the proposals put forward are to succeed, a committee must be set up within UNIDO to ensure the follow-up of industrial integration in the subregion. The development of co-operation, particularly between UNIDO and the ECA/MULPOC could soon lead to UNIDO contributing in the preparation of sectoral studies and protocols concerning the establishment of a PTA in North Africa. The Director-General of UNIDO has been approached to give his approval to this participation.

Res. 640 (XXIII). The promotion of tourism and the development of hotel management and human resources for the tourism sector

20. It shoudl be noted that in the implementation of this resolution, the Executive Secretary of ECA, was requested to carry out a fair number of activities, within the limits of existing resources and using the extrabudgetary resources that may be mobilized. ECA's success depends on resources being available from outside. The following activities were undertaken:

Request I

To intensify co-operation within international organizations, particularly African intergovernmental organizations, with the view to assisting African countries in developing their programmes relating to tourism as well as to mobilizing and co-ordinating available resources in order to maximize their effects on the development of tourism in Africa

Action taken

21. The report of the meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Tourism, held in Kinshasa, was sent to all African intergovernmental organizations, to some non-African organizations and to the participants.

22. As of July 1988, a letter was sent to ECOWAS and to CEAO stressing the decisions of the meeting on intra-African co-operation in tourism. The letter also announced the visit by the ECA staff member responsible for tourism, to

examine the ways and means of African intergovernmental organizations co-operation. As a result of the positive response from CEAO, the mission took place in September 1988. A report was written following the mission. At the request of CEAO for ECA collaboration, the following documents were prepared by ECA:

(a) Terms of reference of a feasibility study on inter-State circuits, for the member States of CEAO;

(b) Note on professional training in tourism;

(c) A draft protocol on co-operation in tourism to be annexed to the treaty setting up CEAO;

(d) Report of the mission to CEAO.

23. Currently contacts are being made for a mission to other intergovernmental organizations early in 1989. The results of these missions will constitute the working document for the intergovernmental meeting to establish the basis for co-operation between the African intergovernmental organizations.

24. In addition, contacts have been established with the secretariat of the Preferential Trade Area (PTA) in order to implement the decisions taken in Kinshasa. So far, this has resulted in the following:

(a) A study on tourism in the subregion as a component of PTA trade, in which ECA made a significant contribution;

(b) A special meeting of the chambers of commerce in the PTA to establish PTA policy on tourism. While ECA could not attend this meeting, a message was sent to the meeting, defining the position of the Conference of African Ministers of Tourism.

25. This activity is comparable with the one which resulted in the creation of a tourism section within the ECOWAS secretariat and with the creation of the West African Association of National Tourism Administrations (WAANTA). The planned mission will allow the outlines of the programmes of these bodies and of their co-operation with ECA to be defined more precisely.

26. The Economic Community of the Great Lakes countries (CEPGL), through the Gisenyi MULPOC, requested ECA to organize a seminar on inter-State circuits within the CEPGL. This project has not yet been financed. The CEPGL has been asked to finance ECA participation which would be in the form of a technical contribution to the project.

Request II

Undertake a study on the tourism activities of subregional intergovernmental organizations in Africa, so as to reactivate such activities and provide them with appropriate technical assistance

Action taken

27. ECA is convinced that the intergovernmental organizations are a necessary means of implementing its programme at the continental level and that by assisting them, the secretariat can increase its efficiency on the ground. The missions listed above will assist in the implementation of this resolve.

28. Already, within CEAO, the PTA and ECOWAS, solid results are noticeable.

Requests III and IV

Establish subregional programmes and structures for joint promotion of inter-State tourism and tourism circuits; and

Undertake studies aimed at creating inter-State circuits and assist member States to do so

Action taken

29. During the current year, a study is planned on the establishment of inter-State circuits to serve as a blueprint for this type of activity.

Requests V and VI

Establish the African association of tourism and take appropriate measures to ensure its functioning; and

Assist African States in setting up national professional tourism associations and provide technical support to the existing associations involved in the promotion of tourism in Africa

Action taken

30. In the first phase, a survey will be carried out to identify the national professional tourism associations and to define their activities for which a questionnaire is being prepared (November 1988).

31. Already, contacts made with the intergovernmental organizations anticipate the establishment of subregional associations, linked together by the creation of a regional association, in the manner suggested by the meeting of the Committee of Government Tourism Experts, held in Kinshasa, Zaire. To ensure a positive outcome, this activity must be very carefully considered and based on solid achievements such as the creation, promotion and exploitation of subregional inter-State circuits, professional training, facilitation, etc. Thus particular

emphasis is accorded to the active participation of subregional intergovernmental organizations. The Tangier MULPOC has included in its work programme the setting up of a subregional committee on tourism.

Request VII

Draw up, in collaboration with the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, the World Tourism Organization and the International Labour Organisation, model management or operations contracts for various types of hotel infrastructure to be submitted as soon as possible to member States for their appraisal, as well as provide effective technical assistance to African States and promoters in the negotiation and monitoring of the execution of the contracts signed with hotel management corporations

Action taken

32. The project proposal for implementing this request has been drawn up in collaboration with the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations. Negotiations with UNDP and other bilateral sources of finance are under way to secure funding. The project will be executed by the Centre and ECA in collaboration with ILO and the World Tourism Organization.

33. Publicity activities have taken place in some States with national tourism administrations to ensure their massive support for implementing the project. Reports so far are most encouraging.

Request VIII

Establishment of subregional tourism and hotel educational institute

Action taken

34. A survey was carried out which identified the means of professional training in tourism trades in Africa. The study, which was presented to the Conference of Ministers, defined the broad directions of professional tourism training. In collaboration with ILO, a draft proposal on the development of human resources was prepared and submitted to UNDP by the Technical Assistance Co-operation and Operations Office (TACOO).

35. Apart from this project, a note on training was prepared for CEAO, which aimed to establish a subregional structure for professional training.

36. Discussions are currently under way on the setting up of a high-level training programme to be carried out by the United States International University - Africa, based in Kenya. A first mission to Addis Ababa took place in July 1988. The final proposals, for submission to the Conference of African Ministers of Tourism, are still awaited.

Request IX

Development of training programmes for enhancing and upgrading the tourism and hotel services at various levels

Action taken

37. The work programme of the ECA Tourism Unit includes two seminars for the current year, one on statistics and the other on small- and medium-size enterprises in tourism and on the participation of African women in the development of tourism.

38. Project proposals for financing these projects have already been submitted. A consultant will be recruited before the end of this year to write a paper to assist in the preparation of a "Method for conducting a visitor survey". The terms of reference on the study of women's participation in the development of African tourism and of the "Handbook on managing small- and medium-sized hotels" have already been prepared. The working documents could have been finished by the end of the first quarter of 1989, if the resources were available.

39. As a result of the Seminar on Tourism Statistics, a manual on the collection, processing and presentation of statistics on tourism has been prepared and will soon be published.

Request X

Updating and publishing at regular intervals of an African directory for educational and training facilities to ensure co-ordination and mutual co-operation in the fields of education and training

Action taken

40. The two directories are completed and are currently being typed with a view to publication as soon as possible.

Request XI

Organization of periodic African tourism events alongside existing continental, subregional and national trade fairs

Action taken

41. A circular was sent out to the chambers of commerce and Association of African Chambers of Commerce so that a "tourism" component could be included in trade fairs, both at regional, subregional and national levels. Copies of this letter were sent to the Ministers of Tourism, to the national tourism administrations and to the national tourism associations for follow-up.

42. Similar letters were sent to OAU and to the African intergovernmental organizations.

43. Letters were also sent to the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP) and the European Economic Community (EEC) so that the "African Tourism Fair" could be included within the framework of the Lome Convention III. If this project is accepted, African participation, together with that of the European partners, will be paid for by the EEC. These partners would also meet in Africa, which is the main objective of the African Tourism Fair.

Res. 641 (XXIII). Campaign against migrant locusts and grasshoppers

44. Resolution 641 (XXIII) was adopted at a time when a large part of the African continent was under serious threat by locusts and grasshoppers. It mandated the Executive Secretary of ECA to strengthen, in co-operation with FAO and WMO, national and subregional control capabilities including the establishment of an early warning system. It also urged the Executive Secretary to mobilize resources for the campaign against locusts and grasshoppers including the establishment of intensive research programmes which would provide long-term solution to the serious threat of locusts and grasshoppers in Africa.

45. Since April 1988 the secretariat has looked into the various dimensions of the resolution and has established appropriate institutional measures both within the secretariat and outside in sensitizing governments and donors with a view to intensifying control measures which are still under way in many parts of the continent.

46. The situation with regard to locust outbreaks, especially the desert locust, continues to be serious. It can even be said that the overall situation may have deteriorated significantly over the past few months. Crop damage in West Africa, particularly in such countries as Senegal, the Gambia and Cape Verde, has been serious while the overall situation in countries like Mauritania has deteriorated significantly. According to the regular FAO Bulletin, Emergency Centre for Locust Operations (ECLO), large-scale invasions of the desert locust should be expected in the Sahelian region in the next few months.

47. The overall situation in East Africa is no less serious. The situation in the Sudan still gives serious cause for concern. The extreme north of Ethiopia has also been a site both for breeding and outbreaks of the desert locust. This part of the Horn of Africa is still acutely vulnerable and large-scale breeding and hopper formation is expected to continue, with large number of swarms possibly forming in this area and subsequently migrating north towards the Middle East. According to the FAO/ECLO Bulletin, while there is still a moderate to high risk of swarms invading Somalia, it has also been reported that the risk of invasion of Kenya is assessed to be low.

48. It can therefore be said that since the adoption of resolution 641 (XXIII) the situation with regards to both breeding and outbreaks may have deteriorated, despite enormous control measures undertaken by the countries affected and despite the generous assistance provided by donor countries during this period.

49. In implementing resolution 641 (XXIII) the secretariat has worked very closely with all the concerned agencies, multilateral and bilateral, particularly

with FAO which has overall responsibility for co-ordination at a global level matters relating to locusts and grasshoppers. However, as member countries are aware, a number of bilateral agencies have come to the assistance of the countries that have been seriously victimized by locusts and grasshoppers. This generous assistance will need to continue in 1989. According to FAO estimates, resource requirements amount to $US 250 million for control programmes during 1989. These are therefore even greater challenges ahead in acquiring substantial resources both from the countries affected and from external donors.

50. Following the recommendations of resolution 641 (XXIII), one of the important actions taken by ECA has been to provide appropriate institutional guidance for the various MULPOCs to work closely with governments and donors concerned with locusts and grasshoppers. The heads of the MULPOC offices have regularly consulted the appropriate national institutions with a view to strengthening the control capabilities at the national level. This institutional capability will continue during the current year and thereafter until the threat of locusts and grasshoppers diminishes and comes to a halt.

51. The most important action which ECA has undertaken in implementing this resolution was the convening of an Inter-agency Consultative Meeting on Locusts and Grasshoppers in Africa. This meeting was attended by 11 agencies, including all the subregional organizations entrusted with the task of controlling locusts and grasshoppers. The inter-agency meeting was the first of its kind ever held in Africa and the participating agencies, especially the institutions from the region, complemented the initiatives taken by the secretariat to organize such a meeting. The meeting succeeded in agreeing on and recommending the establishment of a permanent task force, serviced by the secretariat, to oversee all control programmes, including research, which are expected to be undertaken in the next two to three years. The important conclusions of the meeting, for which intensive follow-up is already under way include the following:

(a) The meeting noted the importance of strengthening, at country level, the capabilities for forecasting, monitoring and controlling locust breeding, infestation and outbreaks;

(b) The meeting identified a series of shortcomings at country level, particularly the declining effectiveness of national institutions involved in the control of locusts and grasshoppers. These shortcomings are outlined in detail in the report. The secretariat is actively consulting multilateral agencies particularly FAO, and also bilateral donors with a view to strengthening, the control capabilities of national and subregional institutions in the immediate future. At the same time the secretariat is actively in touch with the sub-regional locust control organizations for strengthening subregional action on locusts and grasshoppers. In this respect the secretariat attended the meeting called by the Organisation commune de lutte antiacridienne et antiaviaire (OCLALAV) which was convened in N'Djamena from 10 to 16 December 1988 to consider the strengthening of OCLALAV in the light of the current serious infestation of locusts and grasshoppers in the subregion.

52. During the 1990-1991 biennium, the secretariat intends to organize three major workshops designed to identify the technical shortcomings of the countries

most affected by locusts and grasshoppers. It is expected that this process of technical and resource identification will be followed by a systematic capacity building programme for national and subregional institutions.

53. The meeting also recommended the establishment, in the medium term of an early warning system organized, serviced and controlled by the region, eventually reinforcing FAO's ECLO programme in Africa. The practical implication of this recommendation is that African disasters should be recorded, disseminated, dealt with and remedies sought by African institutions. In order to realize this important objective, ECA has now recruited a consultant entrusted with developing the technical and institutional details on how such an early warning system could operate. It is expected that the early warning system will be made functional by the end of this year.

54. The long-term solution to finding alternative technologies for the control of locusts and grasshoppers, particularly the desert locust, is now a major concern of several agencies of the United Nations system. It is firmly recognized that an alternative technology has to be found to the use of toxic chemicals in the control for locusts and grasshoppers, primarily because these toxic chemicals have very harmful environmental effects. ECA had recognized this problem much earlier and has been in active contact with the International Centre for Insect Physiology (ICIPE), based in Nairobi, to encourage them to evolve a sound biological control programme, especially against the desert locust. In this regard, the secretariat participated in an international meeting convened by UNDP in Cairo from 12 to 14 December 1988. The main purpose of the meeting was to find a biological control measure as an alternative to toxic chemicals. Undoubtedly this important direction in research will take a long time to materialize but the secretariat notes with satisfaction the decision taken in Cairo to establish an international network to co-ordinate and monitor this important research effort which, as expected, will be based at ICIPE in Nairobi. Financial commitments have already been made to make the network operational.

55. As the secretariat had not budgeted resources, it had to resort to extra-budgetary resources to resolution 641 (XXIII). The Conference of Ministers might wish to discuss how resources could be raised both within the countries affected and from outside, bearing in mind that ECA has virtually no resources for this important undertaking. The Conference might wish to discuss the modalities on how to organize a fund-raising mission whose primary task would be to visit countries with potential for providing resources to control the present plague. Such a mission could also visit important donor agencies that are likely to provide assistance.

Res. 642 (XXIII). <u>African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders</u>

56. Resolution 642 (XXIII) requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to "submit a report to the Conference of Ministers at its fifteenth meeting on the implementation of this resolution". Operative paragraphs 4, 5, 6 and 8 are particularly relevant in this regard.

Operative paragraph 4 requested the Governing Board of the Institute to submit for the consideration of the fifteenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers appropriate recommendations concerning the budget of the Institute, the gross financial contribution of the host country as well as member States' contributions. For legal reasons however, the meeting of the Governing Board could not be convened before the Statute of the Institute has officially come into force. Article XVII of the Statute states: "The Statute shall come into force upon its adoption by the Conference of Ministers and signature by 10 member States". The first condition of this article was met when the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers adopted the Statute. The second condition is yet to be fulfilled.

Operative paragraph 5 urged the Executive Secretary to finalize the hosting arrangement of the Institute. In this connection, the draft host country agreement was prepared and submitted to the Government of Uganda for comments. Suggestions for amendments were received by the secretariat and incorporated into the draft agreement, which was resubmitted to the Government for its final consideration and approval. Signature of the agreement will take place immediately following its approval by the Government.

Operative paragraph 6 urged member States to sign the Statute as soon as possible. So far six countries namely Uganda, Guinea, Nigeria, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Sudan and Somalia have signed the Statute of the Institute. Considerable efforts have been and are being made by the secretariat through both formal communication channels and informal consultations to urge member States to sign the Statute. The Government of Uganda has also communicated with member States on the issue. Through its good offices, the Organization of African Unity has also sent an appeal to member States to respond expeditiously to the call to sign the Statute. Copies of the Statute were widely circulated to member States and to all the embassies of member States in Addis Ababa.

Operative paragraph 8 appealed to UNDP to consider favourably the long-term funding for the Institute. At the completion of the initial phase of the project, the secretariat prepared a project document for long-term funding and submitted it to UNDP for consideration. UNDP has responded stating that consideration of the project document is conditional upon the signing of the Statute by 10 member States, as a measure of their commitment to the objectives of the Institute.

Res. 645 (XXIII). Support to the countries of south-western Indian Ocean affected by tropical cyclones and natural disasters

57. This resolution requested the Executive Secretary of ECA to co-ordinate the activities that other organizations are conducting in that subregion, working in co-operation with the Secretary-General of OAU and the United Nations Disaster Relief Office (UNDRO) to prepare a plan of action for coping with natural

disasters and limiting their adverse effects on the economic and social development of Africa in general and of African least developed countries in particular and to report to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers on the subject.

58. ECA has entered into contact with the United Nations specialized agencies concerned, namely the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), UNDRO, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) as well as the League of Red Cross Societies (LICROSS) for an update of their activities in the Indian Ocean zone and requesting them to implement the relevant sections of this resolution.

59. Furthermore, UNDRO, as the lead agency, has been requested to prepare a draft plan of action for coping with natural disasters and limiting their effects in the south-western Indian Ocean. This draft plan will then be discussed by OAU, ECA and UNDRO for finalization and submission to the Conference of Ministers for consideration and adoption.

Res. 651 (XXIII). Resources for the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development

60. This resolution requested the Executive Secretary of ECA, in consultation with the Secretary-General of WMO and the executive heads of other United Nations agencies concerned, to organize consultations with donors as soon as possible with a view to obtaining contributions towards making the Centre operational.

61. In implementing both the recommendations of the Board of Governors and resolution 651 (XXIII), the timetable suggested by the Board could not be strictly kept due to resource constraints and the difficulty in recruiting consultants to work on the programme document for the Centre. However, the following activities were carried out:

A. Finalizing the draft of ACMAD programme document including the estimation of the resource requirements and the modalities for the mobilization of resources from member States as well as the job description and recruitment of the Director-General

62. The final draft of the programme document is ready for submission to the next meeting of the Board of Governors for approval.

B. Economic benefits of ACMAD

63. At the first meeting with the donors at the technical level in February 1988, the need for a statement as to the economic benefits of ACMAD was expressed by the representatives of the funding agencies. This was conveyed to the Board of Governors which also recognized this need as it would encourage investment in the Centre, both from member States and, particularly, the donors and funding agencies.

64. With the assistance of UNDP, consultants were hired to put together a first draft which would then be reviewed by ECA, WMO and FAO. Comments on the document were received from the collaborating agencies and the document has been revised for submission to the Board of Governors.

C. Resources for making ACMAD operational

65. As regards the modalities for mobilizing resources from member States for ACMAD, a letter was sent requesting them to implement resolution 651 (XXIII). It is desirable that member States respond urgently as this will

(a) Influence the recruitment of the Director-General;

(b) Demonstrate to potential donors the commitment of member States to the establishment of the Centre

D. Preparation for the donors meeting

66. As indicated earlier, two meetings were programmed, one at the technical level and the other the full meeting.

67. The meeting at the technical level is to prepare fully for the main donors meeting. This meeting indicated areas of interest by donors so that project 'fact sheets' can be drafted from the programme document for the main donors meeting.

E. Job description and recruitment of the Director-General

68. The job description for the Director-General of the Centre was finalized and the post advertised, in accordance with the scales in the staff rules and regulations of ACMAD. As approved at the last Board of Governors meeting, the post was to be advertised with immediate effect. Short-listing will be done immediately thereafter and presented to a selection committee to be chosen by the Board from among its members. It was further suggested that Board members with applicants from their countries should not be members of the selection committee.

F. Follow-up on the ratification of the Constitution of ACMAD

69. Letters were sent to member States concerning resources for ACMAD, inviting them to implement ECA resolution 651 (XXIII) by ratifying the constitution, if they had not yet done so and to pay their contributions. The matter was fully discussed by the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment at its meeting in February 1987.

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Tenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
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Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twenty-fourth session of the Commission/ fifteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
6-10 April 1989

Item 6 of the provisional agenda**

LC/NAIROBI

RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AT ITS SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF 1988 AND BY THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-THIRD SESSION IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS THAT ARE OF INTEREST TO AFRICA

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* E/ECA/TPCW.10/1.
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1. The objective of the present document is to report to the meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole, and through it, to the Conference of Ministers on (a) the action taken by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at its second regular session held at Geneva in July 1988 on the resolutions adopted by the Conference of Ministers at its fourteenth meeting and addressed to the Council; (b) the decisions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its forty-third session on the recommendations of ECOSOC concerning these resolutions; and (c) other resolutions and decisions of the Council and the General Assembly in the economic and social sectors which are of interest to Africa.

2. At its fourteenth meeting, which was also the twenty-third (thirtieth anniversary) session of the Commission which was held at the Palais des Congrès, Niamey, the Niger, from 14 to 17 April 1988, the Conference of Ministers adopted 34 resolutions, five of which were addressed to the Economic and Social Council as they called for action by the Council and the United Nations General Assembly. These were: the Khartoum Declaration: Towards a human-focused approach to socio-economic recovery and development in Africa (resolution 631 (XXIII)); United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (resolution 639 (XXIII)); Biennial Report of the Executive Secretary (resolution 646 (XXIII)); Proposals for extension of the 1984-1989 Medium-term Plan to 1990-1991 (resolution 647 (XXIII)) and updating the 1988-1989 programme budget (resolution 648 (XXIII)).

3. The second regular session of 1988 of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 6 to 29 July 1988.

4. During the first day of the informal consultations, three of the ECA resolutions brought to the attention of the Council: resolutions 646 (XXIII) - Biennial Report of the Executive Secretary, resolution 647 (XXIII) - Proposals for extension of the 1984-1989 Medium-Term Plan to 1990-1991 and resolution 648 (XXIII) - Updating of the 1988-1989 programme budget were endorsed without problem. As for the two other resolutions calling for action by the Council, resolutions 631 (XXIII) - Khartoum Declaration: Towards a human-focused approach to socio-economic recovery and development in Africa and 639 (XXIII) - Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, there was a problem. As regards resolution 631 (XXIII), some delegations observed that the role of international agencies was not clearly spelt out and they presented some amendments to the resolution. The amendments were discussed and finally a consensus was reached and the resolution adopted.

5. As for resolution 639 (XXIII) on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, there was a real problem. At some stage some delegations questioned the idea of having a second Transport and Communications Decade. After lengthy consultations and explanations by ECA representatives the resolution was amended and adopted by consensus.

6. As is the practice, all resolutions adopted by ECOSOC, should also go to the General Assembly for final adoption. Consequently, the aforementioned resolutions together with other resolutions of interest to Africa which were adopted by ECOSOC such as inclusion of Mozambique in the least developed countries, were transmitted to the forty-third session of the General Assembly for adoption.

7. Among the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly were the ECA resolutions referred to above. Other resolutions of interest to Africa adopted by the General Assembly are the following:

8. Resolution 43/12 on Co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity. In this resolution, the General Assembly commends the continued efforts of the Organization of African Unity to promote multilateral co-operation among African States and to find solutions to African problems of vital importance to the international community, reaffirms that the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, (UN-PAAERD) is the responsibility of the international community as a whole and commends the efforts undertaken by African countries in spite of the effects of the adverse international economic environment. It also calls upon the Secretary-General of the United Nations to continue to ensure closer co-operation and co-ordination with the Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity in the implementation and monitoring of the UN-PAAERD as well as in the search for solutions to Africa's debt-servicing burden, taking into account Africa's Common Position on its external debt, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU at its third extraordinary session held from 30 November to 1 December 1987.

9. In resolution 43/27 on the Mid-term Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990, the General Assembly adopted the conclusions on the mid-term review and appraisal of the implementation of the UN-PAAERD consisting of an assessment of the responses and measures to accelerate the implementation of the Programme, as set forth in the annex to the resolution and decided to conduct a final review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme at its forty-sixth session. (For details of the outcome of the mid-term review and appraisal of the implementation of the UN-PAAERD, see document E/ECA/CM.15/4).

10. The General Assembly in resolution 43/53 on Protection of global climate for present and future generation of mankind, urges governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and scientific institutions to treat climate change as a priority issue; to undertake and promote specific, co-operative and action-oriented programmes and research so as to increase understanding on all sources and causes of climate change, including its regional aspects as well as the cause and effect relationship between human activities and climate; and to contribute,

as appropriate, with human and financial resources to efforts to protect the global climate. It calls upon governments and intergovernmental organizations to collaborate in making every effort to prevent detrimental effects on climate and other activities affecting the ecological balance and also calls upon non-governmental organizations, industry and other productive sectors to play their role. In this resolution, the General Assembly encourages the convening of conferences on climate change, particularly global warming, at the national, regional and global levels in order to make the international community better aware of the importance of dealing effectively and in a timely manner with all aspects of climate change resulting from certain human activities.

11. In resolution 43/182 on Preparation for an international development strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, the General Assembly decided to establish an ad hoc Committee of the Whole for the preparation of the international development strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, and requested the ad hoc Committee to submit a progress report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session for its consideration, with a view to finalizing the strategy in time for its adoption in 1990. It invited the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the regional commissions and other organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to include in their agenda during 1989 items regarding their contribution to the preparation of the international development strategy. The Commission is accordingly expected to consider its contribution to the preparation of this strategy at this session.

12. In resolution 43/186 on the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the General Assembly after recalling its resolution 42/177 of 11 December 1987, in which it decided to convene the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at a high level in Paris in September 1990 which was to be preceded in the spring of 1989 by one session of the Meeting of Governmental Experts, Donor Countries and Multilateral and Bilateral Financial and Technical Assistance Institutions with representatives of the least developed countries and in early 1990 by one session of the Intergovernmental Group on the Least Developed Countries, as preparatory committee for the second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, calls upon all governments, intergovernmental and multilateral institutions and others concerned to take appropriate steps to ensure that adequate preparations are made for the Conference and to participate effectively in the two above-mentioned preparatory meetings, as well as in the Conference itself. It requested all concerned organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to submit, before the first preparatory meeting, reports containing a review of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries within their fields of competence and proposals for further action as input to the preparations for the Conference.

13. As far as ECA is concerned this issue will be discussed by the eighth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of African Least Developed Countries from 22 to 24 March 1989 and by the ninth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the African Least Developed Countries whose report (E/ECA/CM.15/39) will be presented to the Conference of Ministers.

14. In resolution 43/189 on Specific measures in favour of island developing countries, the General Assembly urged relevant organizations of the United Nations system to take adequate measures to respond positively to the particular needs of island developing countries and to report on such measures, as appropriate. It requests the Secretary-General to convene a meeting of governmental experts of island developing countries and donor countries and organizations to review the problems of island developing countries and propose appropriate concrete action with respect to those countries.

15. Resolution 43/190 on Strengthening technical co-operation among developing countries in food and agriculture called upon the developing countries, in the context of their primary responsibility for promoting technical co-operation among themselves, to place greater emphasis on their technical co-operation in food and agriculture and to strengthen and improve the mechanisms for such co-operation at the national, subregional and regional levels, especially their national focal points, so as to facilitate policy co-ordination and exchange of experience.

16. In another resolution related to food (43/191 on food and agricultural problems) the General Assembly stresses the urgent need for substantial progress in stimulating food production in developing countries and the importance of increasing domestic food production, thereby stimulating national economic growth and social progress in those countries, in particular in Africa and the least developed countries, and helping to resolve the problems of hunger and malnutrition in an effective way. It calls for a joint effort by all States and relevant international and intergovernmental organizations to improve the food situation and protect the nutritional levels of affected groups, in particular low-income groups, especially during the implementation of structural adjustment programmes. The General Assembly also in this resolution stresses the need for co-ordinated international action to tackle the long-term problems of migratory pest control, particularly in Africa, and while expressing gratitude for the support of donors and recognizing the efforts made by the affected countries in the fight against grasshopper and locust infestation, calls upon donors to continue to give high priority to the implementation and continued co-ordination by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of emergency control programmes, as well as long-term measures, against grasshoppers and locusts currently affecting vast areas of Africa as well as other regions of the developing world, and to remain prepared to provide financial and technical assistance to affected countries at short notice.

17. In a related resolution - resolution 43/203 International strategy for the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation particularly in Africa - the General Assembly expresses its deep concern at the worsening locust and grasshopper infestation, especially in Africa, which may adversely affect food production and result in renewed famine. It reaffirms the need to accord the highest priority to locust and grasshopper control and eradication, and calls upon donor countries and organizations to continue to assist the affected countries to strengthen their control capacity by making available to them, particularly at the current critical stage, inter alia, reconnaissance and spraying aircraft, means of transport and liaison, degradable insecticides, spraying equipment, and, where necessary, specialized technicians and to continue this assistance as long as the infestation lasts. It urges the multilateral financial and development institutions, including the United Nations Development Programme, to give high priority, within the framework of their activities, to the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation and to grant financial and technical assistance to the affected countries, particularly those which have issued appeals for international assistance or have declared a state of emergency. The General Assembly also encourages the Secretary-General to keep under review the question of the locust and grasshopper infestation, particularly in Africa, and to undertake, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the necessary action to make the world community more aware of the disastrous cumulative consequences of locust and grasshopper infestation, specifically with respect to food security.

18. In resolution 43/195 on International co-operation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries, the regional commissions are requested in operative paragraph 2, in accordance with their mandates, to contribute more effectively to the strengthening of regional and subregional co-operation and to study options, including new approaches oriented towards the revitalization of growth and development in developing countries, in order to enable them to address effectively the eradication of poverty.

19. In resolution 43/198 on External debt crisis and development: Towards a durable solution of the debt problems, the General Assembly invites the international financial institutions to continue to review conditionality criteria, taking into account, inter alia, social objectives, growth and development priorities of developing countries and changing conditions of the world economy, and stresses further the need for increased co-operation between the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and other multilateral financial institutions, which should not lead to cross conditionality. It reaffirms that a major objective of any debt strategy should be that debtor developing countries achieve an adequate level of growth sufficient to enable them to satisfy their socio-economic development needs, which will in turn enhance their ability to service debt, and urges all relevant parties to develop new ways and means to sustain effectively policies aimed at attaining such a level of growth. It recognizes that efforts to resolve the debt problem should include, inter alia, policies

in creditor and debtor countries that are supportive of export growth and diversification in the latter.

20. In resolution 43/212 on Responsibility of States for the protection of the environment: Prevention of the illegal international traffic in, and the dumping and resulting accumulation of, toxic and dangerous products and waste affecting the developing countries in particular, the General Assembly urges all States, bearing in mind their respective responsibilities, to take the necessary legal and technical measures in order to halt and prevent the illegal international traffic in, and the dumping and resulting accumulation of, toxic and dangerous products and wastes; it also urges all States generating toxic and dangerous wastes to make every effort to treat and dispose of them in the country of origin to the maximum extent possible consistent with environmentally sound disposal.

21. On social matters, the General Assembly adopted many resolutions some which are discussed below.

22. In resolution 43/93 on the Implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging and related activities, the General Assembly recommends that aging should be considered a priority theme in both the proposed Medium-term Plan for the period starting in 1992 and in the elaboration of an international development strategy for the Fourth Development Decade (1991-2000) and calls upon the specialized agencies, regional commissions and other funding organizations concerned to continue to support activities relating to the question of aging, in particular by providing assistance for projects that fall within their mandate.

23. In resolution 43/94 on Question of youth, the General Assembly, inter alia, calls upon all States, all governmental and non-governmental organizations, interested United Nations bodies, in particular, the Economic and Social Council through its Commission for Social Development, and specialized agencies to continue to give priority to the formulation and implementation of effective measures for securing the exercise by youth of the right to education and to work, with a view to resolving the problem of unemployment among youth; calls upon Member States to pay increased attention to the promotion of youth employment in all sectors of the economy in order to enable more young people to obtain appropriate education and vocational training, thereby facilitating their integration into social and professional life.

24. The General Assembly, in resolution 43/99 on Crime prevention and criminal justice, calls upon all States to become actively involved in the preparation for the eighth Congress, to participate in the regional preparatory meetings to be held in 1989 and to be represented in the quinquennial Congress at a high level, and encourages the intergovernmental

and non-governmental organizations concerned and the professional community, whose substantive contributions to the Congress have always been of great value, to continue to collaborate in the research and other preparatory activities for the eighth Congress.

25. In resolution 43/101 on the Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, the General Assembly, inter alia, reaffirms the need for the Forward-looking Strategies to be translated immediately into concrete action by governments, as determined by overall national priorities, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. It requests the Secretary-General to invite governments, organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions and the specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to report periodically, through the Commission on the Status of Women, to the Economic and Social Council on activities undertaken at all levels to implement the Forward-looking Strategies.

26. In its resolution 43/113 on International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa, the General Assembly, inter alia, calls upon the international community to provide increased assistance to the countries of Southern Africa so as to enable them to strengthen their capacity to provide the necessary facilities and services for the care and well-being of the refugees, returnees and displaced persons in their countries. It endorses the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa adopted by the Conference.

27. The General Assembly also adopted resolutions concerning special economic assistance to African countries facing particular problems such as special economic assistance to Chad, emergency assistance to Somalia, assistance to Mozambique, special assistance to the front-line States, assistance to Benin, the Central African Republic, Djibouti, and Madagascar.

28. Other resolutions concerning refugees, returnees and displaced persons which the General Assembly adopted relate to:

(a) Situation of refugees in the Sudan;

(b) Humanitarian assistance to refugees in Djibouti;

(c) Emergency assistance to voluntary returnees and displaced persons in Chad;

(d) Assistance to refugees and returnees in Ethiopia;

(e) Assistance to refugees in Somalia;

(f) Assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Malawi; and

(g) Assistance to student refugees in Southern Africa.

29. The secretariat will take the necessary steps where it has not already done so, to take into account the provisions of these resolutions in the revisions and finalization of the programme of work and priorities and the next Medium-term Plan.